











CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS OF THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Economic and Social Council, at its ad hoc meeting of 10 December last, confirmed 106 representatives from Governments on the Economic and Employment, Transport and Communications, Statistical, Fiscal, Social, Human Rights, Status of Women and Population Commissions, who had been nominated by Member Governments in consultation with the Secretary-General according to the Council resolutions of 21 June, 1, 2 and 3 October 1946.

The Council decided, with regard to the fourteen remaining places (out of the total of 120) for which nominations had not been received prior to the ad hoc meeting "that members of commissions nominated subsequent to the ad hoc meeting of the Council held on 10 December 1946, and prior to the next session of the Council, after consultation between the nominating Governments and the Secretary-General in accordance with the decisions of the Council of 21 June and 1, 2 and 3 October 1946, may serve provisionally, pending confirmation by the Council at its next session."

Subsequently, nine further nominations have been made in accordance with the heretofore mentioned resolution. Also, eight of the members confirmed by the Council at its ad hoc meeting resigned, and were replaced according to the procedure set up in the same resolution.

Therefore the Secretary-General presents to the Council, for confirmation, the names of the following representatives:

Economic and Employment Commission

Canada	Mr. John Deutsch (in replacement of Mr. Stewart Bates)
India	Mr. R. K. Nehru (in replacement of Mr. J. V. Joshi)
Poland	Mr. Oscar Lange (served provisionally as a member of the Commission at its first session, pending his confirmation by the Council, and resigned on 4 February)
	Mr. Jacek Rudzinski (in replacement of Mr. Oscar Lange)

Transport and Communications Commission

China	Mr. Hsiao Chin-Yuen (in replacement of Mr. Frank Kefong)
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## FOURTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council will open at Lake Success on 28 February 1947. The Council consists of 18 Member States of the United Nations elected by the General Assembly. Membership on the Council is normally for 3 years, with six members retiring each year, but being eligible for re-election. In the first elections to the Council by the General Assembly in London, six countries were elected for 1 year, six for 2 years and six for 3 years membership. The present membership of the Council is listed at the end of this release.

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH SESSION

(The following Provisional Agenda has been circulated to members. The notes in parentheses are not official but are intended for guidance of correspondents covering the forthcoming session.)

1. Adoption of Agenda.
2. Amendment of Rule of Procedure No. 17 to correspond with new Assembly Rule of Procedure No. 87 regarding terms of office of Members.

(Note: This fixes terms of office of members to begin on 1 January following their election by the General Assembly until 31 December, following the election of their successors. The old Rule 17 provided that officers of the Council held office until their successors were elected at the first meeting of the the Council following the next regular session of the Assembly.)

3. Election of President and Vice-Presidents.

(Note: Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar (India) was elected President of the Economic and Social Council at its first session in London, 25 January - 25 February, 1946. At the same session Dr. Andrija Stampar (Yugoslavia) was elected First Vice-President and Mr. Lleras Restrepo (Colombia), Second Vice-President.)

4. Financial Regulation approved by the Assembly providing for Financial Estimates in Connection with Council Resolutions

(Note: The regulation says: - "No resolution involving expenditure from UN funds shall be approved by a Council

unless



unless the Council has before it a report from the Secretary-General on the financial implications of the proposals, together with an estimate of the costs involved in the specific proposal." Financial Regulation No. 25, page 907, Journal 75, Supplement A-64, Add 1, which contains the decisions of the Second Part of the First Session of the General Assembly.

5. Report of Narcotics Commission and Assembly Resolution on Narcotics.

(Note: The Assembly approved a draft Protocol and amendments to International Conventions providing for the transfer to the United Nations of the League Narcotics Control system. The Narcotics Commission at its Session last December requested the Secretariat to secure the greatest possible number of signatures for this Protocol. It also considered limitation of production of raw materials, opium smoking in the Far East, etc. /Doc. E/c.S.7/55/. The text of the Assembly resolutions and Protocol are given on page 843 of Journal Number 75.)

6. Assembly Resolution on Activities of the Economic and Social Council: Part B recommending that the WFTU be given the right to submit items for provisional agenda and Part C that all Non-Governmental Organizations in Category "A" receive equal treatment.

(Note: Item self-explanatory. Text of resolution given in Journal 75: Suppl. A-64, p. 839.)

7. Report of Council NGO Committee

(Note: The Council NGO Committee consisting of Representatives of China, France, United Kingdom, United States, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the President will meet 25 February. The Committee on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies will meet during the Council Session.)

8. Report of Secretary-General on the Coordination Committee.

(Note: This Committee, established by the Economic and Social Council, 21 September 1946 to co-ordinate the activities of the UN and the three specialized agencies with whom agreements had been concluded met on February 4, 1947. Its report is not yet available.)

9. Report of the Economic and Employment Commission.

(Note: Commission met January 20 - February 5. Its report requires very little action by the Council, since it deals largely with work to be done



9. Report of the Economic and Employment Commission  
(Note: Commission met January 20 - February 5, Its report requires very little action by the Council, since it deals largely with work to be done by the Commission's own Sub-Commissions and the Secretariat. A round-up of the Commission's first session is contained in Press Release EC/74.)

10. Assembly Resolution on Reconstruction of Devastated Areas, including questions of establishment of Economic Committees for Europe and for Asia and the Far East, and survey of raw material resources.

(Note: Proposals for Economic Committee for Europe first made by Poland, US and UK in the report of the Temporary Sub-Commission on the Reconstruction of Devastated Areas. A decision on the questions was postponed by the Council at its third Session. The General Assembly on 11 December 1946 recommended that the Council "at its next session give prompt and favorable consideration to the establishment of an Economic Commission for Europe and an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East." Full text of resolution on page 834 of Journal 75. The Economic and Employment Commission worked out "guiding principles" for a European Commission (Doc. E/255) but recommended waiting for Far Eastern report (see next agenda item) before taking decision on a Far Eastern Commission.)

11. Report of Working Group on reconstruction of devastated areas (Far East).

(Note: This working group will meet at Lake Success on 14 February to prepare its report.)

12. Assembly Resolution on Relief Needs after the Termination of UNRRA. Report of Secretary-General.

(Note: A Special Technical Committee established by the General Assembly met to determine relief needs and issued its report to the Secretary-General on 23 January 1947. Doc. No. .../Conf/Relief/1. See also Press Release EC/43 which summarizes the report of the Committee.)

13. Report on FAO Mission to Greece - Item requested by FAO.

(Note: An FAO Mission went to Greece in May 1946. Preliminary report was considered by FAO Conference in Copenhagen last September. Report

recommends

recommends international action by the International Bank and Fund and other specialized agencies in addition to F.O.

(Doc. E/181/Add.17)

14. Report of the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment; Resolution relating to intergovernmental consultation and action on commodity problems prior to the establishment of the ITO.

(Note: The Preparatory Committee recommends that pending establishment of the ITO, Member Nations should adopt as a guide the ITO Charter provisions and requests the Secretary-General to appoint an Interim Coordinating Committee. (Doc. E/PC/T/33, p. 487)

15. Ditto: Resolution on Development.

(Note: The Preparatory Committee asks the Council's advice on the proposed assumption by the ITO of certain advisory functions in the field of economic development. The Economic and Employment Commission advised the Council not to object to inclusion of the clause in the Draft ITO Charter.)

16. Report of Secretary-General on Preparatory Commission of the FAO.

(Note: FAO Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals met in Washington and issued a report in January 1947. The Chairman of the Temporary Economic and Employment Commission (Dr. W. A. Mackintosh of Canada) and Mr. David Weintraub of the UN Secretariat attended as observers. Secretary-General's report not yet available.)

17. United States proposal for conference on resources conservation and utilization

(Note: The proposal was put forward by the US at the Third Session of the Economic and Social Council, but was referred to this coming session. Doc. No. E/139)

18. Report of Social Commission; Assembly Resolution on International Children's Emergency Fund; Assembly Resolution on Transfer of UNRRA Welfare Activities;

and Assembly



and Assembly Resolution on Transfer of non-political functions of the League of Nations.

(Note: The Children's Fund established by the Assembly is already functioning. /-Assembly resolution on page 852 of Journal No. 75. 7  
Its Executive Secretary is Maurice Pate of US. Its program is subject to advice by the Social Commission.

Certain advisory welfare functions of UNRRA, including workshop equipment for prosthetic appliances, were transferred to the United Nations and budgetary provision made. /-Text of Assembly resolution on page 855 of Journal No. 75. 7 The Social Commission which met in January - February, 1947, reported among other things that it recommends the establishment of a Housing and Town-Planning service in the UN Secretariat.)

19. Report of Transport and Communications Commission.

(Note: Commission started first session on February 6, no report yet available. Agenda items include proposal for a World Shipping Organization and the future of the European Central Inland Transport Organization.)

20. Report of Human Rights Commission; Assembly Resolution on Draft Declaration of Human Rights, and Assembly Resolution on calling of International Conference on Freedom of Information.

(Note: The General Assembly referred a Panamanian Draft Declaration to the Commission on Human Rights, which has not yet concluded its present session. The Assembly resolved to authorize the holding of a conference of all Members of the United Nations on freedom of information and instructed the Council to convene the conference before the end of 1947. Delegations to the Conference are to include persons actually engaged or experienced in press, radio, motion pictures and other media for the dissemination of information. /-Text of resolution on page 856 of Journal No. 75. 7)

21. Assembly resolution on Crime of Genocide.

(Note: Resolution proposed jointly by Panama, India, and Cuba, passed by the Assembly, 11

December 1946

December 1946. Resolution affirms that genocide is a crime under international law and invites Member States to enact necessary legislation for prevention and punishment of this crime. Council is requested to undertake studies for a draft convention on the crime of genocide to be submitted to the next session of the General Assembly. (Text of resolution on page 945 of Journal 75\_7)

22. Report of Statistical Commission.

(Note: First session of the Commission met January 27 to February 7, 1947. It created a sub-commission on Statistical Sampling and a Committee of Experts on Standard Industrial Classification, and made arrangements for transfer to UN of League of Nations statistical activities. Round-up of its work given in Press Release EC/79. See also next agenda item.)

23. Report of Secretary-General on Sponsorship of World Statistical Congress.

(Note: The Statistical Commission advised the Secretary-General that it thought it both advisable and practicable for a World Statistical Congress to be held in September 1947. The Secretary-General has been asked by the previous Council Session to explore the possibilities of calling such a congress under the auspices of the Council, in view of the fact that both the International Statistical Institute and the Inter-American Statistical Institute are scheduled to meet in Washington in September.

24. Report of Committee on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies.

(Note: This Committee of 11 members plus the President of the Council will meet during its forthcoming Council Session and will report to the Council on the conclusion of its work.)

25. Assembly Resolution on Agreements with Specialized Agencies.

(Note: The Assembly approved draft agreements with UNESCO, ILO, F.O and PICA0, in the latter case provided that PICA0 comply with the

decision

decision that Franco Spain be debarred from membership of any organization in relation with the United Nations. The first three agencies signed their agreements on 4 February 1947. PICA0 will hold a Conference in May when the Assembly resolution will be considered.)

26. Report of Population Commission.

(Note: This Commission started meeting on 6 February 1947. Its report is not yet available.)

27. Report of Commission on Status of Women.

(Note: This Commission opens its first session on 10 February 1947. The Assembly, on 11 December 1946, passed a resolution urging all members which have not already done so, to adopt measures necessary to fulfill the purposes and aims of the Charter.....by granting to women the same political rights as to men. Text of resolution given on page 852 of Journal 75.)

28. Assembly Resolution on Expert Advice to Member Governments.

(Note: The Council, in this resolution adopted by the Assembly on 14 December 1946, is asked to study the question of providing effective ways and means for furnishing, in cooperation with the specialized agencies, expert advice in the economic, social and cultural fields to Member Nations who desire this assistance. Text of resolution on page 841 of Journal 75.)

29. Assembly Resolution on Housing.

(Note: The Council is asked to consider the desirability of holding an international conference of experts to advise on the need for establishing an international mechanism to collate information, lay down guiding principles for new technical research and to define standards capable of general application. Text of the resolution on page 842 of Journal 75.)

30. Assembly Resolution on Translation of Classics.

(Note:



(Note: The Assembly referred to the Council a Lebanese proposal for translation of the world's classics into the languages of UN members. Text of the resolution given on page 857 of Journal 75.)

31. Questions affecting Council procedure and organization.

- A. Arrangements for conferring with Security and Trusteeship Councils.
- B. Confirmation of Members of Commissions.
- C. Arrangements regarding Alternates to Members of Commissions.
- D. Calendar of Economic and Social meetings for 1947.
- E. Question of Rapporteur to General Assembly.

(Note: Items self-explanatory.)

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Footnote on present Membership of the Economic and Social Council:

Present membership of the Economic and Social Council stands as follows:

For a period of two years - Cuba, Czechoslovakia, India, Norway, United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R.

For a period of three years - Byelorussia\*, Canada, Chile, China, France, Lebanon\*, The Netherlands\*, New Zealand\*, Peru, Turkey\*, United States\* and Venezuela\*.

- \* Countries elected during the Second Part of the First Session of the General Assembly, seven were elected instead of six as Belgium, which had been elected for three years in January, 1946, withdrew when successive ballots failed to give a decision between Turkey and the Netherlands.

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United Nations Department of Public Information,  
Lake Success, Nassau County, New York.  
Press Release-ECOSOC/3 - 10 February 1947.



## ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Round-up of First Session  
20 January - 5 February 1947

(Nations members of the Commission are: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Byelorussian S.S.R., Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Norway, Poland, Soviet Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States.)

In the course of its first session which started on January 20 and came to its end today, the Economic and Employment Commission mapped out a program of work for itself and its sub-commissions, and formulated advice to the Economic and Social Council for its forthcoming discussion on the reconstruction of devastated areas.

### DEVASTATED AREAS

Work in the latter field, it was assumed, would not fall within the immediate competence of the Commission, since the General Assembly had recommended that the Economic and Social Council give prompt and favorable consideration to the establishment of Economic Commissions for Europe as well as for Asia and the Far East. The Commission did, however, submit certain views to the Economic and Social Council.

It drew the Council's attention to the fact that the General Assembly had not expressed its views on reconstruction work in North Africa and Ethiopia and recommended consideration on necessary measures for this work.

The Commission recommends that consideration of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East should wait upon submission of the relevant report by the Temporary Sub-Commission on the Reconstruction of Devastated Areas. (That Sub-Commission is to meet at Lake Success on February 14 to draft its report.)

With regard to the proposed Economic Commission for Europe, the Commission submitted to the Council certain guiding principles for consideration in connection with the terms of references. These include:

- (a) Priority of measures designed to facilitate the economic rehabilitation and reconstruction of devastated countries which are members of the United Nations;
- (b) Immediate consultation with a view to absorption of existing European economic organizations,

namely

namely the Emergency Economic Committee for Europe, the European Coal Organization, and the European Central Inland Transport Organization.

- (c) Provision for direct recommendations to Member Governments, and submission of proposals of world-wide implications to the Economic and Social Council.
- (d) Establishment of subsidiary machinery, subject to budgetary considerations.

### THE ROLE OF THE ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Its own role in the field of international economic action, the Economic and Employment Commission conceived mainly as a coordinating and policy-making one.

With several specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations carrying out research and operative tasks in the economic field, the Commission will expect the Secretariat to continue the formal and informal working arrangements already initiated, to report on current and projected studies and programs in specific fields, and eventually to consider the creation of a "Co-ordination Register". The information so collected is meant to enable the Council and the Commission not only to avoid duplication and thereby to use the work of experts to the fullest degree, but also to find any gaps which may not be covered by any existing activities.

### THE SUB-COMMISSIONS

By previous Council decision, the Economic and Employment Commission is to have two sub-commissions, to work in the fields of Economic Development, and Employment and Economic Stability respectively. The Commission has to appoint seven members to each of these sub-commissions.

The Commission considered that the two sub-commissions, set up to deal with two fundamental aspects in the life of the nations, had extremely important functions to perform. The Commission took the broadest view of the scope of these functions. It held that economic development, in order to achieve the greatest and most lasting benefits, should be an integral part of general social and cultural development programs. It expressly recognized the responsibility given to the Economic and Social Council by the United Nations

Charter, of making appropriate recommendations to member nations who might appear to be falling short of their own Charter obligations for development. It stated that in the field of employment and stability it would consider broad economic problems, including employment and unemployment, national incomes and their distribution, production, consumption and investment.

In these circumstances the Commission felt that the composition of the two sub-commissions was of such importance that the appointment of members should be deferred until Commission members had submitted nominations with detailed statements of qualification. Pending appointment of the sub-commission members at its next session, the Commission entrusted the functions of the sub-commissions to its Chairman, Professor Ragnar Frisch of Norway, and to the Secretariat.

In giving precise instructions to the Secretariat and the two sub-commissions (see Press Releases EC/65 and EC/69), the Commission established the framework within which it and the sub-commissions hope to be able to handle concrete tasks as and when they present themselves.

The collection and analysis of data, the preparation of periodic reports on world economic trends, are meant to bring dangerous economic developments to the attention of the Commission and the Council in time for consideration and the recommendation and initiation of preventive action.

Similar information centrally collated, as well as availability of technical expert advice within the Secretariat, should make possible speedy and competent action when a specific request for assistance is made by a member government.

It was recognized by the Commission that all its work at this session was still of a preliminary character insofar as it was not at the moment faced with concrete problems requiring solutions. The Commission's task at this session was regarded as one of getting ready to handle such problems.

The Commission took a number of other decisions:

- (a) Recommendation to the Council not to establish a sub-commission on Balance of Payments at present.

(b) Agreed



- (b) Agreed with the Social Commission that after the Social Commission had formulated the demand side of the housing problem, the Economic and Employment Commission would consider other economic aspects of housing.
- (c) Decided to postpone consideration of "The Problem of International Controls and Allocations of Commodities in Short Supply and the Problem of Surplus Commodities in Prospect" until its next session.
- (d) Decided to eliminate the agenda item "Atomic Energy and Full Employment" in the absence of information on the industrial uses of atomic energy.

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For full text of Report see United Nations Economic and Social Council Document E/255, 5 February 1947.



Round-up of the First Session  
Statistical Commission  
27 January - 7 February 1947

The creation of a sub-commission on Statistical Sampling and of a committee of experts on standard industrial classification, and promotion of a World Statistical Congress, and the adoption of measure for taking over League of Nations statistical activities as well as for co-ordinating statistical activities between the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and Non-governmental International Statistical Organizations, were among the main achievements of the first session of the Statistical Commission which came to an end today.

The Nuclear Commission which preceded its present Statistical Commission, paved the way last May for an effective International Statistical Organization; now, in the session just ended, the Statistical Commission has come to grips with substantive issues in the development of international statistics.

The Statistical Commission held its first session during the period 27 January - 7 February 1947, with the following members in attendance: Mr. H. Marshall (Canada), Mr. D. K. Lieu (China), Mr. G. Darmois (France), Mr. P. C. Mahalanobis (India), Mr. P. J. Idenburg (Netherlands), Mr. R. G. D. Allen (UK), Mr. I. S. Malyshev (USSR) and Mr. S. A. Rice (US). The members from Mexico and Norway were unable to attend but were represented by observers. The members from Turkey and the Ukrainian SSR were absent.

Representatives of the FAO, ILO and UNESCO, and observers from the International Monetary Fund, PICAQ, WHO and AFL were present.

The Commission elected Mr. H. Marshall as Chairman, Mr. P. C. Mahalanobis as Vice-chairman and Mr. S. A. Rice as rapporteur. Mr. Rice was also elected to represent the Commission on the Population Commission.

Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling

The Commission established a sub-commission on Statistical Sampling and appointed the following members: Mr. P. C. Mahalanobis (India), Chairman, Mr. G. Darmois (France), Mr. W. E. Deming (US), Mr. F. Yates (UK) and a member of the USSR to be designated. Mr. R. A. Fisher (UK) was invited to serve as a consultant to the sub-commission:

(A) To draft

- (A) To draft recommendations to the Commission concerning its terms of reference and composition;
- (B) To examine methods used in applications of statistical sampling in various countries and fields;
- (C) To give special consideration to the use of statistical sampling methods in meeting the actual operating needs of the UN and the Specialized Agencies, with a view to filling gaps in the information required by them, and to assessing the adequacy and precision of information obtained by a complete enumeration compared with information obtained by sample methods.

#### Transfer of League of Nations Statistical Activities

In order to liquidate the League of Nations Committee of Statistic Experts without discontinuing its activities, the Commission expressed a desire to assume the functions previously performed by this Committee as set up under the International Convention relating to economic statistics. It was advised, however, that this was not possible unless and until the United Nations legally assumes the responsibilities entrusted to the League under the convention. The Commission therefore asked the Secretary-General to prepare a draft protocol amending the convention, for consideration by the Commission at its next session.

Since the Commission wished the unpublished technical papers prepared under the direction of the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts to be made available to specialists, but without carrying the Commission's endorsement, it requested that the Secretary-General arrange for the publication of the following three reports:

- (A) Measurement of national income and the construction of social accounts;
- (B) Banking statistics, recommendations on scope and principles of classification;
- (C) Note on balance of payments statistics.

Co-ordination

### Co-ordination of Statistical Activities Between the United and Specialized Agencies

The Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to make periodic reports at sessions of the Statistical Commission on progress achieved in developing administrative instruments, procedures and agreements, through which effective statistical co-operation may be secured between the United Nations and the agencies brought into relationship with it.

It was recognized that there is an immediate need for developing standards of reporting data in the field of balance of payments, and that this matter is of concern not only to the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the Specialized Agencies, but also to the governments which will be asked to supply data.

### Relations With Non-Governmental International Statistical Organization

The Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council admit to consultative status non-governmental international statistical organizations which so request and are prepared to relate their activities to those of the United Nations.

### Proposed 1950 Census of the Americas

The Commission welcomed the steps which are being taken to conduct on a cooperative basis censuses of the American nations, and expressed its belief that the experience gained in the preparation and conduct of this co-operative project will be of great value to member governments in their own countries, and will serve as a useful guide in later tentative projects on a world-wide scale.

### Proposed World Statistical Congress of 1947

In reply to an inquiry from the Economic and Social Council, the Commission advised the Council that a World Statistical Congress under the auspices of the Council would greatly benefit the United Nations by the many opportunities it would afford to the members of the Statistical Commission, as well as to the Statistical staff of the Secretariat and the specialized agencies.

The Commission



The Commission further expressed the opinion that in view of the various meetings of statistical societies scheduled to be held in Washington, D. C. during the period 6-18 September 1947, it would be desirable for the Economic and Social Council to assume responsibility for a limited program of general meetings under its auspices, to be known as the World Statistical Congress, which would focus attention on the statistical activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

#### Future Work of the Commission

The Commission recognized the need for adopting measures to allow statistics compiled by various countries to be more comparable, especially regarding classification of branches of economic activity. The Commission therefore recommended the creation of a Committee of Experts to serve in their individual capacities and to make proposals to the Commission on standard industrial classification. The following were invited to serve in this Committee: Mr. H. Marshall (Canada), Mr. P. C. Mahalanobis (India), Mr. P. J. Idenburg (Netherlands), Mr. G. Jahn (Norway), Mr. I. S. Malyshev (USSR) and Mr. S. A. Rice (USA).

The Commission recommended that work on statistics of national income be pursued as expeditiously as possible by the Statistical Office of the United Nations in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned.

The Commission requested that the Statistical Office of the United Nations in preparing the agenda for its next session, should submit memoranda on the following subjects:

- (A) Unification of transport statistics;
- (B) Methods of compilation of index numbers;
- (C) Methods of achieving uniformity of basic economic statistical series.

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For full text of Report see United Nations Economic and Social Council Document E/CN.3/20/Rev.1. 6 February 1947.



## SOCIAL COMMISSION

Round-up of First Session  
20 January - 4 February 1947

(Nations members of the Commission are: Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Greece, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Union of South Africa, U.S.S.R., U. K., U. S. and Yugoslavia. Iraq was not represented. Representatives present of the following organizations: I.L.O., F.A.O., UNESCO, WHO, WFTU, I.CO-OP.A. and A.F.L.)

In the course of its first session which started on January 20 and ended 4 February, the Social Commission dealt with Housing and Town-Planning, Standard of Living, Social Security and Child Welfare; took over some important activities and functions of the League of Nations and adopted a resolution to urge the International Children's Emergency Fund and the Economic and Social Council to give first priority to raising funds for work in this field formerly done by UNRRA. The Commission, amongst other activities, also expressed its desire to cooperate with specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and other Commissions concerned.

### HOUSING AND TOWN-PLANNING

The Secretariat's report on this item was taken note of by the Commission, which had been asked by the Economic and Social Council "to consider the desirability of setting up international machinery in the field of housing and town-planning."

A resolution was adopted recommending the creation of a Housing and Town-Planning Service within the Social Affairs Department of the Secretariat and urging it take the measures necessary to convene an international conference of housing and town-planning experts. If this conference could not be convened before 1 January 1948, plans for holding a smaller conference attended by representatives of war devastated countries should be arranged by the Secretariat. Assistance of the specialized agencies concerned, of the Emergency Economic Committee for Europe and of the non-governmental agencies in category A should be secured.

### STANDARD OF LIVING

The Commission examined the report of the Temporary Social Commission and instructed the Secretariat to submit a report

to a

to a forthcoming session, dealing in particular with questions of the standard of living, social security, and the care and rehabilitation of the disabled.

It further adopted a resolution inviting the Secretariat to study the standards of living in under-developed countries and submit suggestions for their improvement.

#### TRANSFER OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS FUNCTIONS

The Commission approved the transfer to the UN Secretariat of the activities, powers and functions of the League of Nations in the fields of traffic in women and children, prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, and child welfare.

#### PREVENTION OF CRIME

The Commission discussed at length the question of consultation with the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission, recommended by the Economic and Social Council. A resolution was adopted stating that, in view of a later resolution of the General Assembly (12 December 1946) relating to Spain, the Commission informed the Economic and Social Council that it does not feel able to give effect to the Council's recommendation as long as the I.P.P.C. has not severed its relations with the Franco Government.

#### CHILD-WELFARE AND UNRRA-ACTIVITIES

After devoting considerable time to discussions of proposals for more active international action in the child welfare fields, the Commission reviewed the Secretary-General's report on the International Children's Emergency Fund and the report from the Fund.

It adopted a resolution urging the Fund's Executive Board and the Economic and Social Council to give first priority to raising funds from governmental and non-governmental sources for work formerly undertaken by UNRRA, so that the Fund may carry on this work immediately UNRRA ceases to operate. The Commission also defined in this resolution various principles of operation for the Fund, relating to priorities, emergency measures, cooperation with governments, etc.

The Commission considered the creation of a sub-commission on Child Welfare, recommended by the Economic and Social Council. While most members agreed as to the desirability of setting up such a sub-commission in the future, they considered definite action at this stage as premature. A resolution was

passed



passed setting up a 7-member Temporary Committee on Child Welfare, to determine the best methods of work in this field and study the composition and terms of reference of a sub-commission to be created later.

At a subsequent meeting, the Temporary Committee's terms of reference were extended to include other subjects in the social welfare field, and its name was altered to Temporary Committee on Social Welfare.

The Commission studied the Secretariat's recommendations on the training of Social Service Staff and referred them to the Temporary Committee on Social Welfare.

The Commission further studied the General Assembly's decision to transfer to the U.N. the advisory social welfare functions of UNRRA. It passed a resolution inviting the Temporary Committee to study development of a criteria for use in reviewing requests from various governments for advisory welfare services and inviting the Secretariat to deal with urgent work connected with social services.

#### COOPERATION WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

#### AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Two resolutions were adopted concerning the Commission's cooperation with specialized agencies and with non-governmental organizations. Particular note was taken in the latter resolution on the Commission's desire to cooperate to the fullest possible extent with the W.F.T.U.

#### CONTACT WITH OTHER COMMISSIONS

It was decided to keep the closest possible contact with the work of other Commissions. In particular, since the question of migration has a social aspect, the Commission decided to recommend to the Council the creation of an ad hoc Technical Committee composed of two of its members and members of the Population Commission as well as of representatives from the appropriate specialized agencies. Two members of the Social Commission were selected to represent it at meetings of the Population Commission.

#### INDIGENT FOREIGNERS

A document on League of Nations activities relating to indigent foreigners was considered by the Commission, which

instructed

instructed the Secretariat to collect from governments the most recent information regarding their administrative practices regarding assistance to indigent foreigners and to report on the situation at a future session.

#### PROCEDURE

The draft Rules of Procedure prepared by the Secretariat were adopted with slight amendments. A resolution was passed recommending to the Council that alternates may be designated by governments represented on the Commissions, subject to confirmation by the Council, and that the Secretary-General consult with the governments before the alternates are finally designated by them and submitted to the Council's approval.

The Commission further adopted a resolution bringing draft rules of procedure more in harmony with a decision of the General Assembly concerning the right of non-governmental organizations in category A to place items of interest on the Council's agenda.

Two Resolutions regarding summary records of the proceedings were also adopted, as well as a resolution instructing the Secretariat to ensure, as of the next session of the Commission, a regular press digest of the opinion of principal publications concerning its work.

The Commission voted to recommend that the next session be held at the earliest in July, and, if possible, in Geneva.

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Round-up of First Session  
27 January - 10 February 1947

(Nations members of the Commission are Australia, Belgium, Byelorussian USSR, Chile, China, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Lebanon, Panama, Philippine Republic, Ukrainian SSR, United Kingdom, United States, USSR, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. The ILO and UNESCO were represented and consultants attended from the AFL, WFTU and the International Co-operative Alliance).

The chief subjects dealt with by the Commission on Human Rights during its first session, which began on 27 January and ended yesterday, were an International Bill of Rights, Freedom of Information and of the Press, Prevention of Discrimination, Protection of minorities, and communications received on human rights.

INTERNATIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS

The task of preparing a preliminary draft International Bill of Human Rights, to be submitted to it at its second session, was entrusted by the Commission to its Chairman (Mrs. F.D. Roosevelt), Vice-chairman (Dr. P.C. Chang) and Rapporteur (Dr. Charles Malik). The draft will be prepared in accordance with the instructions and decisions of the Commission at its first session.

In the course of this work the Chairman may enlist the co-operation of and shall receive any observations and suggestions from any member of the Commission, and may consult experts chosen with the consent of their Governments, members of the United Nation. The three officers of the Commission may also consult any person deemed appropriate or any document which is relevant to their work.

While recognising that it was not in a position at present to formulate precisely its views on means of ensuring observance of rights included in the Bill, the Commission invited the drafting group to explore this field and to study an Australian proposal for an International Court of Human Rights and any other documents submitted to it, so that the Commission at its second session might be able to work out definite proposals.

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The consensus of the Commission was that the Bill of Rights should be submitted to it by the drafting group as a draft resolution for presentation to and approval by the General Assembly.

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

The Commission decided to establish a Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press and to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its functions should be:

- (a) in the first instance, to examine what rights, obligations and practices should be included in the concept of freedom of information, and to report to the Commission on any issues that may arise from such examination.
- (b) to perform any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council or by the Commission.

The Commission also decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council authorize the Sub-Commission to submit recommendations on the program of the forthcoming Conference on Freedom of Information, and to assist in its preparation.

It was decided that the Sub-Commission should be composed of 12 persons selected by the Commission in consultation with the Secretary-General and subject to the consent of the governments of the countries of which the persons are nationals. Not more than one person should be selected from any single country.

Not having had the time to select the members of the Sub-Commission, the Commission recommend that, in the first instance, the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session choose them under the same conditions. It recommended further that the choice be made from among lists of persons submitted by such Commission members as cared to make nominations, each member nominating not more than twelve persons from members of the United Nations.

The term of office of members of the Sub-Commission shall be, in the first instance, one year, subject to reconsideration by the Commission before the end of that period.

### PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Although empowered by the Economic and Social Council to create separate sub-commissions on prevention of discrimination

and

and protection of minorities, the Commission decided to establish one Sub-Commission to deal with both subjects, and decided that its functions should be:

(a) in the first instance to examine what provisions should be adopted in the definition of the principles which are to be applied in the fields of the prevention of discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, language or religion and the protection of minorities, and to make recommendations to the Commission on urgent problems in these fields.

(b) to perform any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council or the Commission.

It was also decided that the Sub-Commission should be composed of 12 persons, chosen in precisely the same way as the members of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, and that their term of office should be, in the first instance, two years, subject to reconsideration by the Commission before the end of that period.

#### COMMUNICATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

On communications received concerning human rights, the Commission decided to request the Secretary-General:

- (a) to compile a confidential list of such communications before each session of the Commission;
- (b) to furnish this confidential list to the members of the Commission, upon request, without divulging the content of the communications or the identity of the authors;
- (c) to enable the members of the Commission, upon request, to consult the originals of the communications, and
- (d) to inform the writers of all communications concerning human rights, however addressed, that their communications will be brought to the attention of the Commission.

While recognising that it had no power to take any action on any complaints regarding human rights, the Commission decided that in the future the Chairman or Vice-Chairman should meet shortly before each session with one or two co-opted members to receive communications concerning human rights and bring to the Commission's attention such communications as might assist it in its work.

#### NEXT MEETING

The Commission decided that, subject to the concurrence of the Secretary-General, its second session should be held at Geneva beginning on 21 July next.

























Transfer of Functions from the League of Nations.

publication of certain periodicals is the transfer  
has been taken over by the United Nations, while a  
technical functions have been taken over by  
the organizations.





ROUND-UP

POPULATION COMMISSION

February 6 - 19, 1947

With the adoption of its final report and recommendations to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Population Commission today completed its first session.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Alberto Arca Parro, noted Peruvian expert in demography and Delegate of his country to the Economic and Social Council, the 12-Member Commission laid the groundwork for the international organization of population studies.

As pointed out to the Commission by Mr. Jan Stanczyk, Director of the U.N. Department of Social Affairs, problems of concern to the Population Commission extend throughout the political, economic and social fields. One example is the different rates of population growth throughout the world. While in some countries population is virtually stationary, the growth in others is very rapid. There are countries too densely settled to make healthy living possible on the basis of their present economic development while others are too sparsely settled to permit efficient exploitation of resources. It is the task of the Population Commission, to find, in collaboration with other Commissions and Specialized Agencies, a solution to such problems.

In view of the yet very small staff of the Secretariat's Population Division, and bearing in mind the need for economy, the Commission had to restrict itself to a limited preliminary program. It initiated the preparation of a Demographic Year Book, the first issue of which is to be published in 1948; endorsed plans for a World Statistical Congress to meet in Washington, D. C. in September 1947, dealt with population censuses to be taken in or around 1950 and recommended various studies of populations in Trust Territories.

These studies would be designed to provide data on birth and mortality rates, the distribution of the population by occupations and educational levels, the density of the population in specific areas, etc.

In addition, the Population Commission endorsed the creation of a special Technical Committee to study Documents on Migration collected by the Secretariat.





The next session of the Commission will be held at Lake Success in August or September 1947.

Countries members of the Commission are:- Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Netherlands, Peru, Ukrainian SSR, United Kingdom, United States, USSR and Yugoslavia.

Officers of the Commission are:- Dr. Alberto Arca Parro (Peru) Chairman; Mr. V.A. Babichko (Ukraine) Vice-chairman; Mr. David Glass (U.K.) Rapporteur.

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